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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/685,012	10/14/2003	Timothy J. Dalton	YOR920030336US1 (16898)	4288
23389	7590	11/01/2005	EXAMINER	
SCULLY SCOTT MURPHY & PRESSER, PC			DIAZ, JOSE R	
400 GARDEN CITY PLAZA				
SUITE 300			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
GARDEN CITY, NY 11530			2815	

DATE MAILED: 11/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/685,012	DALTON ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	José R. Diaz	2815

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 16 August 2005.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 1-4 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Toma et al. (US 2005/0077597 A1).

Regarding claim 1, Toma et al. teaches an interconnect structure comprising: a semiconductor substrate (10) (see fig. 1E) comprising one or more device regions (integrated circuits or IC) [see paragraph 0004]; one or more interconnect levels located atop the semiconductor substrate (consider the feature 40 formed in the dielectric 20, which includes metal wiring patterns) [see fig. 1E and paragraph 0006], said one or more interconnect levels comprising a patterned organosilicate dielectric layer (20) having sidewalls (50) [fig. 1E and paragraph 0033] comprise CH_x species with $x=1-3$ (CH_3) [see figure 3B and paragraph 0039-0040].

Regarding claim 2, Toma et al. teaches a patterned organosilicate dielectric layer (20) having a dielectric constant of less than 4.0 [paragraph 0031].

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Regarding claim 3, Toma et al. teaches one or more interconnect levels including metal lines and vias (although figure 1E shows a single feature 40, Toma et al. further teaches that the invention can be used for damascene structures, which inherently include the formation of a via and a metal line) [see paragraph 0006].

Regarding claim 4, Toma et al. teaches metal lines and vias (consider the damascene structure) comprising a conductive material (metal, i.e. copper) [paragraph 0006].

With regard to Claim 7, Toma et al. teaches discloses one or more device regions that comprise a Field effect transistor (consider the integrated circuits or IC) [paragraph 0004].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

.(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 5-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Toma et al. (US 2005/0077597 A1) in view of Applicant's admitted prior art as disclosed on page 2 paragraph (0003) of the instant application.

Regarding claims 5 and 6, Toma et al. essentially discloses the claimed invention, but fail to explicitly discloses that the interconnect levels form a thinwire or a fatwire interconnect structure. However, Applicant's admitted prior art discloses that

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thinwire or fatwire interconnect structures are presently known and formed on integrated circuit chips. Therefore, it would have been obvious to someone with ordinary skill in the art, at the time of the invention, to modify the structure as disclosed by Toma et al. to include the claimed thinwire or fatwire interconnect structures, as suggested by Applicant's admitted prior art, in order to provide wiring levels fabricated at a minimum lithographic feature size in the case of a thinwire and wiring levels with increased width in the case of a fatwire [see paragraph (00032)}.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-7 have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any

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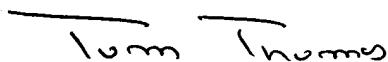
extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Correspondence

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to José R. Diaz whose telephone number is (571) 272-1727. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Thomas can be reached on (571) 272-1664. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Tom Thomas
TOM THOMAS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER


José R. Diaz
Examiner
Art Unit 2815